

Message Text

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22

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 EB-07 INR-07 OES-06

COME-00 /040 W

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R 051513Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 728

INFO AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL MILAN

AMCONSUL OSAKA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ICEM, BEXP, UR

SUBJ: SOVIET PURCHASES OF CHEMICAL EQUIPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY

REF: STATE 270218

1. WE NOTE THAT MOSCOW WAS AN ACTION ADDRESSEE ON REFTEL BUT FEEL WE MUST POINT OUT OUR LIMITATIONS IN CONTRIBUTING TO A RESPONSE. AS WE SEE IT, MUCH OF THE INFORMATION REQUESTED IS HIGHLY COMMERCIALY SENSITIVE, AND THE POSSIBILITY OF OUR BEING ABLE TO OBTAIN SUCH DATA FROM WESTERN SOURCES HERE (NOT TO MENTION SOVIET) WOULD REST HEAVILY ON OUR BEING ABLE TO PROVIDE COMPARABLE DATA IN THE CHEMICALS -- OR ANOTHER -- FIELD TO OUR CONTACTS, BE THEY DIPLOMATIC COLLEAGUES OR FOREIGN BUSINESSMEN. GIVEN THESE PROBLEMS, THE MULTI-NATIONAL NATURE OF THE FIRMS TO BE CONTACTED, AND THE POSSIBLE COMMON INTEREST IN THE STUDY BEING UNDERTAKEN, IT OCCURS TO US THAT PERHAPS A MULTILATERAL FORUM SUCH AS OECD MIGHT BE MORE SUITABLE BOTH FOR RAISING THE QUESTIONS AND

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FOR EXCHANGING WHATEVER INFORMATION THE U.S. IS WILLING TO

PROVIDE IN RETURN. ALTERNATIVELY, IT MIGHT BE RAISED IN
NATO ECONADS WITH SPECIAL HANDLING OF JAPANESE AND SWISS
ASPECTS.

2. IF IT IS PREFERRED NOT TO RAISE THIS ISSUE IN A MULTI-
LATERAL FORUM, HOWEVER, WE ASSUME THAT MOST INFORMATION
REQUESTED COULD MORE EFFECTIVELY BE OBTAINED IN CAPITALS
OF FRIENDLY COUNTRIES CONCERNED. WE WOULD BE PREPARED TO
DO WHAT WE CAN WHERE INFORMATION CANNOT BE OBTAINED THERE,
BUT WE WOULD PREFER TO AVOID DUPLICATION OF EFFORT ON
WHAT WILL SURELY BE A SENSITIVE MATTER.

3. SUGGEST DEPARTMENT REPEAT REFTEL AND THIS MESSAGE TO U.S.
MISSIONS OECD AND US NATO FOR THEIR VIEWS.
MATLOCK

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 NOV 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MOSCOW17462
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760414-0705
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761177/aaaacooz.tel
Line Count: 76
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 270218
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 APR 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <18 AUG 2004 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOVIET PURCHASES OF CHEMICAL EQUIPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY
TAGS: BEXP, UR, ICEM
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006